The Irish-Evidence

Convicted by their Own

OATHS:

OR, THEIR

SWEARING

AND

Counter-Swearing

Plainly Demonstrated

In Several of Their Own

AFFIDAVITS,

Herewith faithfully Published.

AS ALSO,

A Full and Impartial ACCOUNT

OF THEIR

Past & Present Practices.

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The Irish-Evidence CONVICTED

By their own

OATHS.

I Doubt not but the *whole Nation* is by this time sufficiently Alarm'd with the noise of the *Irish Witnesses*, and their *Notorious Adventures*, their *Swearing*, *Counter-swearing*, *Quarrels* amongst themselves, *Suborning*, and being *Suborn'd*, Endeavours to *drop* the Popish Plot, and *Sham* another upon Protestants, &c. are become the Common themes of every Table-talk, and the Subject matter of *Play-House Drolls*.

But the Methods *how*, the persons *by whom*, and the *Ends for which* they were turn'd *Renegado's*, and brought to debauch their Consciences to such an unparallel'd degree, are things perhaps not so Generally *known*, or taken *notice* of.

Nor shall I (though I have more Reason than *most* Private Persons to Inspect those Affairs) undertake fully to satisfie in all those Particulars, only shall here present the publick with a few *Remarques* and *true Copies* of some of their own Depositions, which will afford us not a little Light therein; for he must be extreamly *dull*, that by those four *Grapes* cannot Judg of the whole *Vintage*.

1. It appears by *Coleman's Letters*, and all the *Evidence* of the Popish Plot, that the same was a *General Conspiracy* to Subvert and Root out the Protestant Religion, not only in *England*, but likewise in the rest of his Majesties Dominions, and indeed throughout the World. Whence it cannot in Reason be imagin'd, they would neglect to carry on the same in *Ireland*; a Kingdom where the over-ballance of Papists, the open undisturb'd Residence of *Popish Bishops and Priests*, the natural *Antipathy* and *Malice* in the Natives towards the *English* (as well on the account of Religion, as for enjoying several of their Lands) and many other Reasons, afforded such apt fewel for that *Combustion*. On the other side, 'tis most probable, that the *French*, as well to embroil our Affairs, and promote *Popery*, as more especially in hopes of gaining, at long Run, the Possession and Government of so Important a Kingdom into their own Hands, might be forward enough in offering them *Assistance*, as they did to the Rebels of *Messina* in *Sicily*, when lately they Revolted from their Soveraign the King of *Spain*.

2. The Plot in *England* being Discovered, and the Prosecution vigorously carried on against the Traytors, and some of them *Executed*, 'tis no wonder, if *Conscious Guilt*, and *Fear*, (a very powerful motive with an *Irish* man, and which has abundance more Influence on them than true Remorse of *Conscience*, or Kindness to the *English*) might prevail with some of the Conspirators to Discover what they knew; and indeed their Informations were so Coherent, and Backt with such pregnant Circumstances, that both His *Majesty* and the *Parliament* declared themselves satisfied, There was such *a Bloody and Traiterous design on foot in that Kingdom*, and accordingly *Plunket* the Titular Primate, on the Testimony of some of these Evidence, and his *own Papers*, was Condemn'd and Executed.

3. But the Popish Party taking *Boldness* from the *Dissolutions* of Parliaments, whereby the Prosecution against them, was not so vigorously carried on, or at least retarded, and perceiving the *Poverty* of these Witnesses, who had a very little to subsist on, but

the *meer Charity* of well-disposed Protestants, resolv'd to try if they could *take them off*, and prevail with them by *Bribes* and *Hopes* to decline their former Evidence, and lay *the Plot* at the Protestants doors.

This they foresaw would be a *two-edg'd* Strategem; for if they succeeded, and could get these Witnesses to be *believ'd* as to the Protestant Plot, then they should Infallibly destroy many of their Enemies and most *zealous Prosecutors*, as the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, &c. or if the *Sham* were Discovered, and the Witnesses Trapp'd in their Stories, yet however it would spoil their *Credit*, and render their Testimony so suspected as to be Invalid against any of the *Popish Traytors*, and so either *way* not fail of doing their Party a most Effectual Service.

Nor had they reason to *despair* of prevailing with these fellows, for though *some* of them (not all) did now call themselves *Protestants*, yet even those pretended Converts remain'd *Papists* in their Hearts, or at least were still *Irish* men, that is, implacable Enemies to the *English*. And as *fear of a Rope* first brought them to Discover, so now these fears beginning to lessen, and *new fears* arise, that they should suffer for *Discovery*; Therefore, the only way where by they could hope for reconciliation to their *Countreymen*, and *Pardon* and *Absolution* from their *Church*, was to be Instrumental in Sacrificing the *Lives* of as many Protestants as they could to her Interest, as a Peace-Offering. Add hereunto their wretched *Poverty*, which not only rendred them *desperate*, but that *very small Relief* which they had received from Protestonts, gave them greater opportunities to colour such a *Sham-Plot*, and swear against their Charitable Innocent Benefactors.

4. In order therefore to this, they first *tamper* with and prevail upon *David Fitz-Gerald*, and make use of him as *a Decoy* to wheadle in the rest, concerning which *Worshipful Tool*, it will be necessary to give a brief Account. His *Pedigree* is very suitable to his Imployment and Practiecs, his Father a pitiful Villain, considerable only for having had the honour to have been *Indicted* and *Out-law'd*, as being one of the *Cut-throats* of the Protestants in the late Rebellion in that Kingdom, and who now goes a begging with his Wife from Door to Door: This young Hero, their Son, was Originally a *Foot-Boy*, first to one Captain *Butler*, and afterwards to one Colonel *Piggot*, and though he hath had the impudence to say before the King and Council, that he was a man of a *considerable Estate*, 'tis most Notorious, that in Lands, Goods or otherwise, he was never worth *twenty Pounds* in his Life, whilst he continued in *Ireland*; and what he hath done as to Discovery of any thing of the Popish Plot, he was provok'd thereunto rather by desire *of Revenge*, than any Sentiments *of Loyalty*: for his Landlord Sir *Thomas Southwel* having distrain'd a *few Cattel* he had for his Rent, (which were not at all worth 10 *l.*) And having no way to recover them back again (being *all* that he and his Family had to subsist on) but by breaking of the *Pound* and stealing them out, and Sir *Thomas* Prosecuting him for the same, he then in Revenge Charges Sir *Thomas* for *Concealing the Popish Plot*, pretended to be Discovered by him, to the said Sir *Thomas* sometime before, which whether *true* or *false*, I determin not; 'tis certain few people *believ'd* it, the whole Country knowing him to be a fellow of so *vile a Life* and *Conversation*, that they would give no credit to any thing he should either *say* or *swear*, though they were *otherwise* well satisfied of the designs of the Papists.

But he hearing that the *Irish Plot* was discovered in *England* by Mr. *Hethrington* to the King and Council, comes over for *England*, and gave Information before the King and Council and both *Houses* of Parliament, against several Persons that were concern'd in the Popish Plot in *Ireland*; but his *wants* being very great, insomuch, that had not his Landlord given him Credit for *Meat*, *Drink and Lodging*, he must either have starv'd, or followed the *old Trade* that he formerly practised in *Ireland*, and being a fellow naturally *proud*, *ambitious*, *false*, *treacherous*, and disposed as well by his *Constitution* as *former Conversation* for any kind of Villany; the *Papists* or some of their *disguised Factors* and *Abetters*, fell in with him, and manag'd him so, as he not only began to *Retract* his Evidence against Sir *John Fitz-Gerald*, Colonel *Lacy*, and others. And also used all the means he could, by *Threats*, *Discouragements* and *Temptations*, to get the rest of the Witnesses against them and others to *Retract* also; which ill Practises being found out by Mr. *Hetherington*, he immediately made *a Complaint*, and Exhibited the following *Articles* against him to the House of Commons at *Westminster*.

Articles

Articles of High Misdemenour *preferred against* David Fitz-Gerald, *to the House of Commons, and there proved fully by Mr.* William Hetherington, *and afterwards before the King and Council; but not there brought to hearing.*

1. THe said *Fitz-Gerald* at the first coming of the Witnesses out of *Ireland* to prove the Hellish Popish Plot, did seem to be very glad of their coming, to justifie their Evidence, and in particular, that of *Eustace Comins*, saying that he was an honest man, and was wrongfully clapt up in prison by the means of Sir *William Davis*, for discovering of the Plot, which he the said *Fitz-Gerald* swore he could say more to, than any of them all, and that he could charge the greatest men or man in *Ireland* therewith, or in words to that effect: but after he saw *Comins*'s Narrative Printed, and found that several of his Friends, as he pretended, were charged there, then he began to rail and reflect upon him, and threaten to be the death of him; and afterwards took occasion to abuse and revile the rest of the Witnesses.

2. That amongst other matters that he pretended he could prove touching the Plot, he said he could prove the day and time that the Duke of *York* was to be Proclaimed King in *Ireland*, and that he would tell the King of it, and that he did acquaint the Earl of *Burlington* coming out from the Committee of the Lords, that he could and would hang those he had accused, and bring great ones to prove the matters he had charged them with.

3. That notwithstanding, the said *Fitz-Gerald* hath since endeavoured by many waies and means to bring this Informant and the said Witnesses into His Majesties disfavour, and to cast reproaches upon them, the better to Invalidate their Evidence; alledging untruly, That they had received three thousand pounds from the City of *London*, or some of the Citizens thereof, or some others whom he would mention if he could.

4. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* hath sometimes by threats, other times by feasts, treats, moneys, promises, and other waies of perswasion, laboured to take off the said Witnesses from giving their Evidence on His Majesties behalf, particularly in the Case of Sir *John Davis*, and when all that would not prevail upon them, told them that His Majesty was displeased with this Informant's Proceedings, and would be so with them, if they followed his directions; and by these devices so affrighted them, that he got them to sign to a Petition to His Majesty (which he drew for the purpose) Intimating, That they were informed, His Majesty did not look upon them as coming to doe him Service; and that if it were so, they should readily desist appearance further: though their intentions were really to serve His Majesty.

5. That the said *Fitz-Gerald*, when he knew the said Witnesses were to be called into either Houses of Parliament, or some Committee relating to them, to give in their Evidence, hath endeavoured to hide them, or some of them, that they could not be found; and when they have been found, he hath laid violent hands on them, or some of them, and would not permit them to go, untill they forced themselves away from him; and then he threatned them, and those that called them, and with an Oath, said he would break *Shaftsbury*'s Knot; and the better to prevail with the Witnesses, acknowledged he had received for his Service, 100 *l.* of his Grace the Duke of *Ormond*, 500 *l.* from the King, and a Commission to be a Captain; and that His Majesty had given him two Blank Pattents for Baronets, the one for his Father-in-Law, and the other to be at his own disposing, and a Grant of the Lands of *Rakeale*, and all the Commons of *Knockgreny* in the County of *Limerick*.

6. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* had not only villified and threatned the said *Comins*, but had also informed several of the Members of the House of Commons, that the said *Comins* was a very Rogue, and that he could produce many Records against him, and that he was not fit to be credited: and also terrified and threatned to kill him the said *Comins*, so that he was forced for some time to keep himself in Obscurity. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* hath not only villified and abused him this Informant, and the Evidence which

he was concerned for, but also Mr. *Thomas Sampson*, who came over upon his own accord to serve His Majesty in that matter: and who by his Testimony therein hath given great satisfaction to both Houses of Parliament.

7. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* being examined by a Committee of the House of Commons against Sir *John Fitz-Gerald*, refused to give his Evidence, being his Relation, unless the Committee would promise to Intercede to His Majesty for his the said Sir *John*'s Pardon; and before a Committee of the Lords, in his Evidence, he charged Colonel *John Fitz-Patrick*, and Sir *Edward Scot* to be Confederates in the Plot, but at the Lords Barr would not, though asked, and left their names out in his Narrative, published in Print, of his own knowledge in that matter, his mind being since altered, upon what considerations may well be judged; he also said before the said Committe, that he fared the worse because they knew that the King had a kindness for him.

8. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* asked the Witnesses, or some of them, whether they retained the *Romish* Religion still? who replied they did, for which he the said *Fitz-Gerald* commended them for so doing, for that the Protestants would only make use of them for their own purpose and advantage, and afterwards would hang them.

9. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* also told the said Witnesses, or some of them, that the King was satisfied that the late Lord *Stafford* was innocent, denying the Fact at his death, or words to that Effect: and that His Majesty was resolved not to try any more of the Lords in the *Tower*; and after the Parliament was Prorogued, he told the said Witnesses, or some of them, that he would remove their Nests.

10. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* had kept continuall correspondency and familiarity with the four Witnesses which were brought over by a Messenger from *Ireland*: and a Person of Quality perceiving it, told him that he had not observed the Orders the Committee gave him; which was, That he should not come near any of the Evidence, not Converse with them. The said *Fitz-Gerald* replyed, that he was *Commanded by the King* to come there, and also gave the said Person of Quality very scurrilous abusive language.

11. The said *Fitz-Gerald* also abused the said four Witnesses, or some of them, and asked them if they came to hang poor *Plunket*.

12. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* said he was abused, because he would not accuse the Duke of *Ormond* and the Chancellor of *Ireland*, which he knew to be as honest men as any in the three Kingdoms.

THe Examination of these Articles being referred to a Committee, Mr. *Hetherington* produced all the Evidence that *Fitz-Gerald* had been tampering with, and gave full satisfaction to the Committee of his villanous Practises, of which indeed his own Insolent Behaviours before the said Committee, might alone have been a very pregnant proof. And the Chair-man of that Committee was making his *Report* to the House, when the *Black Rod* came to *Prorogue* them; soon after which, a *Dissolution* followed, otherwise 'tis probable this *Plot-jhammer* would have been severely dealt with according to Law. But escaping Justice then so luckily, has encouraged him and his Accomplices, to proceed since more boldly in their endeavours to sham the *Popish Plot*, and Suborn Witnesses against the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, Mr. *Hetherington*, &c.

The first course he took to shock the Integrity of the other Witnesses, was to fright them with *impudent lies* and *scandalous Aspersions* upon the Person and Honour of His *Sacred Majesty*, assuring them with Horrid Oaths, That His Majesty *did not send for them*, nor regard whether they were all *hang'd or drown'd*, That His Majesty *did not believe* there was any Popish Plot at all, *nor care for prosecuting it*, That they should never get any *allowance* if they would not be ruled by him, *&c.* Such brazen-fac'd slanders on the best of *Monarchs*, who on all occasions has so vigorously shewn himself *a true Defender of the Protestant Faith*, that no good Subject can repeat them without Horror, and Wonder that the Villain that broach'd them, has so long escaped the *Pillory*, or rather the *Gallows*.

In the next place he *braves* it out with fine clothes, and Insults over the other Witnesses *poverty*, and shews them whole *handfulls of temptation*, bright charming Gold: Insinuating that they should have the like encouragment if they would but embark with him in the same design. Some of them indeed had so much *conscience* and sparks of honesty remaining, or at least such regard to their future repute and safety, as for some time to *struggle* with these Temptations, and then *freely upon Oath* discovered the *profered Subornations* and wheadling devices; yet afterwards (as may reasonably be judged by the sequel) over-swayed with the suggestions of the Devil and his Instruments, so as to value neither *Truth* nor *Conscience*, nor even their *former Oaths*, pinched with necessities and

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Brow-beaten with the frowns of Grandees, and abandoned (almoſt) by all the World, they began to hearken to the voice of this *Man-catching Syren*, and forget the Popiſh Plot, and ſet up the *Iriſh Ha-loo-loo* againſt Proteſtants, and being once engaged, and having flung their Conſciencies over-board, nothing remains that they will *Boggle* at, or which their grand *Plot-ſhamming* Maſters and dayly Feeders pleaſe to put them upon.

This may ſeem a *bold charge*, and would appear very unjuſt, had we only ſuſpitions and probable proofs, or *violent preſumptions*, to juſtifie it, but we have it under ſeveral of their *own hands*, nay more upon *their Oaths*, which for the Readers ſatisfaction, we ſhall here faithfully recite. The following *Depoſitions* being by ſeveral of them (ere they were ſo totally debauched) *voluntarily ſworn* before the reſpective Magiſtrates therein mentioned.

London ſſ. *The Information of* Maurice Fitz-Gerald, Gent. *taken this Eighteenth Day of* March, 1680. *upon Oath before me, Sir* John Frederick, Knight *and* Alderman, *one of the Kings Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace, for the City of* London.

THis *Informant being duly ſworn ſaith, That whereas it is reported in and about the City of* London *and* Weſtminſter, *and other places, That he hath retracted from the Evidence and Information that he gave upon Oath before* John Odell, Nicholas Mounçton *and* George Ayleſmer, *three of His Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace for the County of* Limerick, *in the Kingdom of* Ireland, *againſt ſeveral Perſons in the ſaid Information mentioned, being concerned in the Horrid Popiſh Plot, contrived againſt His Majeſty and His Proteſtant Subjects there, it is altogether falſe and untrue. And further declareth, That whatſoever he hath related in the ſaid Information, is altogether true, and will upon no account whatſoever retract from the ſame, but will juſtifie the ſame Information whenſoever he this Informant ſhall be thereunto required. And further ſaith, That whereas there was a Petition lately preſented in the name of this Informant and others (as he hath heard) to the King and Council, by* David Fitz-Gerald, *That he this Informant had diſowned any Information that he had given againſt Sir* John Fitz-Gerald *and* Colonel Pierce Lacy, *He this Informant doth declare, That he knew nothing of the ſaid Petition till after it was preſented, and was not any waies concerned in the ſame.*

Jur. Coram me, John Frederick. Maurice Fitz-Gerald

Vera Copia. E. B.

Which Information given by the ſaid *Maurice Fitz-Gerald* in *Ireland*, follows in theſe words.

Com. Limerick. *The Information of* Maurice Fitz-Gerald, Gent. *taken before us,* John Odell, Nicholas Muncton *and* George Aylſmer, *three of His Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace, for the County of* Limerick.

THe Informant being duely ſworn on the Holy *Evangeliſt* ſaith, That on or about *Winter*, 1676. after Captain *Thomas Mac-Inerina* returned out of *Flanders* and *France*, whether he had been imployed as Agent from the *Iriſh* Gentry, there was a very

great meeting, at Colonell *Peirce Lacy*'s House at *Currot*, where met besides the said Colonel, the Lord of *Brittas*, *Molowney* the Popish Titular Bishop of *Kullalow*, *Brenan* the Popish Bishop of *Waterford*, *Duley* the Popish Bishop of *Limerick*, two *Jesuits* whose names this Informant knows not, Sir *John Fitz-Gerald*, *John Power*, Son to *David Power* late of *Killbolan*, *John Hurley*, *Eustace White*, *John Bourke* of *Cahormohill*, *William Bourke* his Brother, Captain *John Purdon*, Captain *Thomas Mac-Inerina*, Captain *Richard Stephenson*, *David Fitz-Gerald*, and he this Informant, and several others, whose names this Informant knows not, where and at which time the said Captain *Mac-Inerina* gave an account of his Agency, and what Force the *French* King had promised to send over into this Kingdom of *Ireland*, which to the best of this Informants remembrance, was to be about 20000 men, and Artillery, Armes and Amunition for 20000 men more, which were to be raised in *Munster*, and they then and there consulted how the 20000 men should be raised, and resolved it should be by their *Clergy*, and made a Computation, and appointed how many each Priest should raise in his Parish; and likewise appointed the Officers that should Command, and sales that the Lord of *Brittas*, Colonel *Pierce Lacy*, Sir *John Fitz-Gerald*, *John Macnamarra* of *Cortlaigh*, *John Power*, Captain *Sulivan of Beerhaven*, one *Carty*, and several others were to be Colonels: That *John Bourke* of *Cabirmokill* was to be Lieutenant Colonel, and that Captain *Thomas Mac-Inerina* was to be Lieutenant Colonel, or Major to Captain *Sulivans* Regiment, and that Captain *John Purdon*, Captain *Richard Stephenson*, Mr. *John Hurley* and Mr. *Eustace White*, were to be Field-Officers; and that he hath heard, That Mr. *John Ankill* was to be Lieutenant Colonel, and that Mr. *William Bourke*, Mr. *Theobald Dowdall*, Mr. *Oliver Stephenson*, Mr. *David Fitz-Gerald*, now in *London*, This Informant, and several others, were then appointed Captains, and that *John Bourke* of *Ardagh*, and several others, were appointed Lieutenants; and that *John Dury* and *Tady Quin*, were to be Captains, and that *Nicholas Bourke* and many others of *Limerick*, were then pitched on for the surprize of *Limerick*, whose names at present he remembers not, and saith, That on notice from Captain *Sulivan* of *Betrehaven* of the *Frenches* landing, there was a *Massacre* of all the *English* resolved in one Night, and persons particularly assigned to the *Massacre* or *Murther* of every Family, and saith, That the Popish Servants in each Family were to betray and open the doors, or some other way let in those *Irish*, and so murther the *English* in their beds, and after if they could not surprize, they were imediately to besiege *Limerick*: and saith, That by reason of the Emperors, the King of *Spain*, and other the Confederates joyning and assisting the *Dutch*, the *French* King was hindred from sending out those Forces and Arms he promised, and so all things were at a stand till about *Michaelmas*, 1679. That all the aforenamed persons, and *John Macnamarra* of *Cratellaigh*, *John Ankill* of *Farochy*, Captain *Levallin* and several others, met at Mr. *William Bourke*'s House at *Lisnekilly*, and continued there two or three daies together, and that the said Captain *Levallin* brought and produced a Commission for the raising of those 20000 men, and uniting them with what Forces should be sent out of *France*, and raysed in other parts of this Kingdom; and saith, That he hath heard, that the Earl of *Tyrone* was to be a General Officer, and Colonel *Fitz-Patrick* and Sir *William Talbot*, were to have some great Commands, and saith, That all then present at *Lisnekilly*, bound themselves by strict Oaths, and by an Instrument under their Hands and Seals, to be true and faithfull and stand by each other, and saith, That the Plot is still, and that they have dayly hopes of the *French* Kings invading, and that he hath heard there was some Powder lately landed in the County of *Clare*, side of the River of *Shanon*, and that he will labour to discover it, and saith, That he hath some papers which he will peruse, and hopes by them other things may occur to his memory, which he will be ready to add to this his Information; and saith, That he hath been told, That *David Fitz-Gerald* discovered the said Plot both to Sir *Thomas Southwell* and *John Piggot*, Esq; And this Informant saith; That in case this Information should be known, he and his Family are in danger of being murthered.

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London, ss. *The Information of* Maurice Fitz-Gerrald *Gent. taken the one and twentieth day of* March 1680. *upon Oath before me* Sir John Frederick *Knight and Alderman, one of the Kings Majesties Justices of the Peace for the City of* London.

THis Informant saith that *David Fitz-Gerrald* was a Grand Plotter, and also to be a Captain to assist the French King, as he hath formerly sworn and declared; and that there was a difference between one Collonel *Lacy* and the Lord *Brittis*, which of them should have the said *David* to be their Captain in their said Regiments. And further the said *Maurice* Deposeth, that the said *David* did use all his endeavours to stifle some of his Majesties Evidence, as himself, one *Edmond Morphew John Moyer*, *Hugh Duffey*, *George Coddan*, *Paul Garmley*, and *Mortaph Downing*, from declaring the truth concerning the horrid Popish-Plot in *Ireland*. And further saith, that the said *David-Fitz-Gerrald*, did desire him this Informant and the rest of his Majesties Evidence, to go back for *Ireland*, that the said *David* might be Captain over all the said Evidence, and have all the benefit to himself. Also the said Informant saith that the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, did send one *Thomas Fitz-Gerrald*, to one *John Fitz-Gerrald* to perswade him the said *John Fitz-Gerrald* to retract his Evidence. And the said *John* being come to the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, this Informant was ordered by the said *David* to withdraw into a private Chamber, that he might not hear their Contrivance and Discourse. As also, the said *John* was to be one of the three *Fitz-Gerralds* that were to joyn with the said *David* against his Majesties Evidence. Furthermore, the said *David* did order me to write in my Information, that one *William Hetherington* and the rest of his Majesties Evidence, were but all Rogues and Thieves, and Goale-breakers, and Turbalent persons; and that their Evidence ought not to be taken, either by King or Parliament; And the said *David Fitz-Gerald* did likewise tell this Informant, that his Majesty told him the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, that he would not give, or Order any money for his said Evidence that are in the City, unless the said persons would go back from their Evidence, and joyn with the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, meaning one *Moyer*, *Morphey*, and *Duffey*, that were to have thirty pounds a-piece to joyn with the said *David*, against the rest of his Majesties Evidence. Further, being demanded whether *David Fitz-Gerrald* had been at any time in Company with the Earl of *Aron*, and Sir *John Davis*, since the last Sessions of Parliament, saith several times at their respective Lodgings, and likewise, that the said *David* had been several times with Sir *John Fitz-Gerrald* in the *Gatehouse*, likewise this Informant saith, that he hath seen *David Fitz-Gerrald*, in Company with *Robert Poor*, a person charged for Treason, at the said *Davids* Lodging, where the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* gave the said *Robert Poor* Instructions to draw up the Articles against Mr. *Hetherington*.

Maurice Fitz-Gerrald.

Jurat Vicessimo primo die Martij 1680. Coram me.

John Frederick.

The information of Owen Callaghan *and* Murtagh Downing *taken upon Oath before the Right Honorable Sir* Patient Ward *Knight, Lord Mayor of the City of* London, *the 4th. of* May, 1681.

THe ſaid Informants being duly ſworn and examined upon the holy Evangeliſt, depoſeth and ſaith: That *David Fitz-Gerald* hath uſed all the means he could poſſible for to get theſe Informants to retract from their Evidence theſe Informants had formerly given in againſt ſeveral perſons who were concerned in the late Horrid Popiſh Plot in *Ireland*. The ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* meeting with theſe Informants in the City of *Weſtminſter* near Charing-Croſs demanded of them theſe Informants what their buſineſs was here in *England*, whereupon they theſe Informants told the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* that they came over to be Witneſſes for the King, to whom the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* replying, and ſaid to theſe Informants, that the King did not ſend for them nor for the reſt of the Evidence and that the King had rather that they were all hanged or drowned, than that they ſhould ſtay here to any ſuch purpoſe. And theſe *I*nformants further ſay, that the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* told them theſe *I*nformants, that thoſe that would joyn with him the ſaid *Fitz-Gerald* againſt Mr. *William Hetherington*, and the reſt of his Majeſties Evidence ſhould have money enough, and named Ten Pounds a piece and alſo their paſs for *Ireland*. And theſe *I*nformants further declare that in the company of one *Morris Fitz-Gerald* who is alſo one of the Kings Evidence, and the ſaid *Mortagh Downing* one of theſe *I*nformants being at the ſign of the Kings Head in *Long-Acre* near *London*, the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* declared that the ſaid Evidence had better to go home for *Ireland*: and dig their Potatoe Gardens than to ſtay here and expect any money from his Majeſty for their ſervice. And that the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* alſo declared to theſe *I*nformants that his Majeſty did not care for putting this Popiſh Plot forward at all, and the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* further ſaid, that his *M*ajeſty did not believe there was any ſuch Popiſh Plot intended in *Ireland*. And theſe *I*nformants further declare, that the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* declared and ſaid to theſe *I*nformants that his *M*ajeſty did not care for any man that ſhould ſpeak any thing againſt his Grace the Duke of *Ormond*, neither would his *M*ajeſty believe that the ſaid Duke had any hand in the ſaid *Iriſh* Plot. And theſe informants further declare that the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald*, wherein he could meet with theſe informants, and the ſaid *Morris Fitz-Gerald* in diſcourſe would tell the foreſaid *Morris Fitz-Gerald* and theſe informants, that his Majeſty would not give them any money for maintenance, nor money to bear their charge for *Ireland*, except they would all joyn with him the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* againſt the ſaid Mr. *William Hetherington*, and the reſt of his Majeſties Evidences: meerly to force them to retract from the diſcharge of their Conſciences in giving in their juſt Evidences to ſerve his Majeſty, as in true zeal and loyalty to their King and Country they ought to do as becometh true Subjects: And theſe *I*nformants further declare, that the ſaid *David Fitz-Gerald* declared to ſeveral Fryars (whoſe names

do follow) when first they came to him the said *David Fitz-Gerald*, that they should have no money from his Majesty unless that he the said *David Fitz-Gerald* did further and forward them the old Fryars which he would do upon condition that the said Fryars would assuredly joyn with him the said *David Fitz-Gerald* against the said Mr. *Hetherington* and the rest of his Majesties Evidence, &c. The which they the said Fryars have since accordingly done and agreed to the said *Fitz-Geralds* desire, as namely Fryer *John Moyer*, *Edmond Murphey* a secular Priest, Fryer *Hugh Duffey* and others by the said *Fitz-Geralds* procurement. And these Informants further say, That the said *Fitz-Gerrald* ordered all the said parties to have all things in readiness, in order thereunto in Writing: These Informants also say, that the said *Moyer*, *Murphey Duffy* and others, gave him the said *Fitz-Gerrald* a Contract in Writing under their hands, to effect the said purpose so intended by them, which was to side with him the said *Fitz-Gerrald*, against the said Mr. *Hetherington*. And these Informants further say, that the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* hath likewise ingaged himself to the said *Fryers*, that all the Names of those persons in *Ireland*, who are concerned in the said horrid Plot, that he the said *Fitz-Gerrald* would undertake to have mony enough from his Majesty for them, upon the condition that they would joyn with him the said *Fitz-Gerrald* against the said Mr. *Hetherington*, and the rest, to sham their Evidence in speaking the Truth as aforesaid in the discharge of their Consciences. And further the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* told them, these Informants, that he would make his Majesty not to give any of the Evidence that was in this City of *London* any money at all. and that as soon as the Parliament sate at *Oxford*, that those Evidences then lying in the City of *London*, would be all hang'd for lying there; meerly on a pretence to get these Informants as they verily believe, to joyn with him the said *Fitz-Gerrald*, as the before-named *Moyer*, *Murphey*, *Duffey*, and one *George Murphy* had done; the which said persons, the said *Fitz-Gerrald* had drawn to side with himself, by Treats Threats and Money as aforesaid. And these Informants further say, That the said *David Fitz-Gerald* declared to them, these Informants, that his Majesty had told him the said *Fitz-Gerrald*, that within one week after the Parliament were met and sate at *Oxford*, they would be dissolved. And that then every one of the Evidence might go home about their business: and these Informants further say, that one Doctor *Thomas Fitz-Gerrald*, who was sent by the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* as these Informants verily believes, on purpose to Trap or insnare us these Informants in our Evidence, and thereby to know our intentions, and for no other end then to get us to retract our Evidence as aforesaid: he the said Doctor *Thomas Fitz-Gerrald* uttering himself in these words (*viz.*) that he the said Doctor *Fitz-Gerrald* would Pistol or kill the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, (always provided) That they, these Informants, would joyn with him the said Doctor *Fitz-Gerrald* against the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*. And these Informants further say, That the said Doctor made it his Business to come several Nights to the Informant *Mortough Downings* Lodging to effect his said purpose, thinking thereby to intrap these Informants in their Evidence, as aforesaid, if by any means he could.

The Information of *Bernard Dennis*, taken upon Oath before the Right Honourable Sir *Patient Ward*, Knight, then Lord Mayor of the City of *London*.

I Do remember that Captain *David Fitz-Gerrald* at ſeveral places hath told me, that the King was clearly againſt Mr. *Hetheringtons* proceedings, and that if the Iriſh Evidence did follow his directions they were likely enough to fall out of the Kings Favour as well as he: and the Reaſon was, becauſe of his Familiarity with the Earl of *Shaftsbury*. And that his Majeſty would be highly diſconted that any of the Evidence ſhould proceed againſt Sir *John Davis* or any of his appointed Magiſtrates without his permiſſion. He further told me, that there was a Collection made for the Iriſh Evidence, in the City of *London*, and that the King had notice of it. And if we would take *Fitz-Grralds* advice we might have what mony we would, and told me that he had five hundred pounds Sterling, and a Commiſſion for a Captains place from his Majeſty, and that he was to go ſuddenly for *Ireland*, he further told me that his Majeſty was informed, that we the Kings Evidence came over not to ſerve him, but to caſt an Aſperſion upon his Majeſty: which we utterly then, and always abſolutely do deny. Hereupon, we drew and preſented a Petition to his Majeſty, ſetting forth the occaſion of our coming over: which was to ſerve his Majeſty and the Kingdom, and that when he pleaſed, we were willing to return home: after this, he told me that his Majeſty intended to impeach Mr. *Hetherington*.

Vera Copia.

London ff. The Information of *Mary Cox*, Spinster, taken upon Oath the eighth day of July, 1681. before Sir *John Frederick* Knight, one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the City of *London*.

MARY COX of *Stoke Newington*, in the County of *Middlesex*, Spinster, maketh Oath, that being at Mr. *Robert Boulters* a Stationer in *Cornhil London*, the night before Mr. *Plunket* was Tryed, Mr. *Bernard Dennis* came to speak with Mr. *Boulter* aforesaid, and in Discourse of the Tryal of *Plunket*, Mr. *Dennis* said, that coming from the other end of the Town, in *Fetter-Lane*, by the *Cross-Keys*, he saw a Crowd of people, and enquiring what was the reason of it, they told him it was a *Subpena* served upon *Murphy*, and he said *Murphy* had absconded for some time, because he would not have been Subpened, and he said *Murphy* did say, he would not appear the next day according to the Subpena, but what the Issue was he did not know: but left them and came straight to Mr. *Boulters*. After some Discourse of Mr. *Dennis* his being in *Newgate*, and that Mr. *Wilmore* was Bayl for him and *Macnamarra*, my self and Mr. *Boulter* aforesaid, asked him some Questions about Mr. *Hetherington*, and whether he thought him an honest Man, he told us he thought him a very honest Man for what ever he did see or know concerning him. Then we asked him what was become of his Man *George*, he said he was gone from him over to *Fitz-Gerrald*, and that he had new Clothes, and was very fine, and said so might he have if he would turn Rogue, for he said he had a Letter in his Pocket, which made him great proffers to retract his Evidence. We ask'd him from whom he had this Letter, he said from *Fitz-Gerrald*. Then we asked him if he were sure it was from him, and how he knew it, he said it was writ with his own hand, and his Name subscribed to it, and that he knew his Hand very well, and had seen it several times. And he said in this Letter, *Fitz-Gerrald* proffered him Gold and Silver enough holding out his hands, as people do when full of Money, and that he might have his change of Rayment, and live Comfortably not only for the present for the future also. But he said, he hoped

he ſhould approve himſelf an honeſt Man, and take Mr. *Boulters* Council, to keep to the Truth, and then he ſhould never be aſhamed. There were preſent Mr. *Boulters* Wife, one Mrs. *Norton* and my ſelf. We had ſeveral other diſcourſes about divers Iriſh Men that were gone off, and about the great endeavour *Fitz-Gerrald* made to get the Evidence over to his ſide, which I cannot remember ſo particularly as I did the former.

Mary Cox.

Jurat. octavo die Julij, 1681. Annoq; Caroli ſecundi nunc Angl. &c. xxxiij. Coram me John Frederick.

London, ſſ. *The Information of* Robert Boulter of *Cornhil London, Stationer*, taken upon Oath, before *Sir John Frederick* One of his Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace for the City of *London*, on the eighth day of *July* 1681.

RObert *Boulter* of *Cornhil London, Stationer*, maketh Oath, that he was preſent when the diſcourſe happened between Mr. *Bernard Dennis*, and Mrs. *Mary Cox*, and himſelf, as in her Depoſition aforegoing is ſet forth, and that the ſame is a juſt and true Account of the ſaid Diſcourſe.

Robert Boulter.

Jurat. octavo die Julij 1681. *Annoq; Caroli ſecundi nunc Angl. &c. xxxiij. Coram me* John Frederick.

A

A true Coppy of a Paper, Remaining at the Council-Board, atteſted in purſuance of an Order in Council, Dated the fifth day of *October*, 1681.

William Blaithway.

Council-Chamber, the fifth day of *October* 1681.

BRyan Heynes of *London*, Gent. Aged thirty years and upwards, maketh Oath, that Mr. *David Fitz-Gerrald* one of the Kings Evidence, about the latter end of *February* laſt, told this Deponent that he the ſaid *Fitz-Gerrald* poſſeſſed his Majeſty, and alſo gave it under his hand and Seal, that the late Plot was a Presbiterian Plot, and invented by the Right Honourable *Anthony* Earl of *Shaftsbury*, on purpoſe to extirpate the Family of the *Stewarts*, and dethrone his preſent Majeſty, and turn *England &c.* into a Commonwealth, or elſe ſet the Crown upon the Earls own head, which the ſaid Earl told the ſaid *Fitz-Gerrald*, did more appertain to the ſaid Earl, then to his preſent Majeſty, as the ſaid *Fitz-Gerrald* told this Deponant, and this Deponant further ſaith, that one *Robert Power*, Agent for the Earl of *Tyrone*, & likewiſe the ſaid *Fitz-Gerrald* did divers times tamper with this Deponant, to ſpeak to *John Macnamarra*, to the end the ſaid *Macnamarra* would retract his Depoſitions concerning the Popiſh-Plot againſt the ſaid Earl of *Tyrone*, and that in caſe the ſaid *Macnamarra* would deny what he depoſed againſt the ſaid Earl of *Tyrone*, the ſaid *Robert Power* and *David Fitz-Gerrald* did to this Deponant promiſe the ſaid *Macnamarra* ſhould be provided for all the days of his Life, *&c.*

Much more this Deponant can ſay:

And this Deponant further ſaith, That the ſaid *Fitz-Gerrald* told this Deponant, he wanted but Mr. *John Macnamarra* to come in and joyn with him, and he would have the ſaid Earl of *Shaftsburies* Head off, and *Sham* the whole Popiſh-Plot.

S. W.

All

All these are exact Copies of Affidavits and Testimonies freely made by these Irish Evidence (except only that of Mrs. *Cox* and Mr. *Boulter*, which relate materially thereunto) And not a man of those Irish-men that made these Oaths, but has since been great with *Fitz-Gerrald*, and submitted to his Conduct, and really done what there they swear, they were first tampered with, and proffered to be subborn'd unto; Whence we may most naturally raise these conclusions.

1. Either what they swore then, was *True*, or *False*. If *True*, nothing is more apparent, Than that this *Fitz-Gerrald* who is now so much in favour with Grandees, and one of the preparers of Witnesses, against Protestants, is one of the worst of Men: And that there were long since ill Designs set on Foot to corrupt them. And who can doubt but they have swallowed the Bait, that sees the sudden change of their Condition from Beggary, to *Bravery*; whilst they swore against Papists they had not a penny to help themselves, but what peoples Charity gave them, to keep them from Starving; As soon as they began to talk of a Protestant Plot, they appear fine, full of money, have Lodgins, and Diet provided for them, *&c.* And yet (observe the ridiculous *Absurdity*) these Men (amongst other Lies) must now swear, that Ptotestants *Brib'd* them to swear that Papists.——

On the the other side, If what they swore in these Affidavits be *False*, They are virtually and voluntarily forsworn (if not legally perjured) Consequently nothing any of them shall hereafter (I mean at least against any Protestant, for as to their Testimony against Papists nothing of such a Bias appears) ought to be regarded.

2. If such Practises have been used towards these particular Men (the Indirect Dealings with whom are thus Providentially brought to Light) we have Just Reason to suspect the like, have (behind the Curtain) been also made use of with others, and even *several of the English Witnesses* too have no less receded from their former Declarations and frequently of late *Herd* and associate with these *Tainted* Irish-Cattel. That Subornation is every where Vigorously endeavoured, and that the Conspirators reckon it worth their while to offer mighty Temptations, and give *large Wages of Iniquity*, too Charming for most Mens slender Honesty to Refuse, is evident by the late Practises with Captain *Wilkinson*. That these Plot-shamming Intrigues were at Bottom carried on by Papists, there is no doubt to be made; Not only because it serves only their Interest. But also from several Instances of Fact.

1. Whilst

1. Whil'ſt theſe Witneſſes (as I ſaid but now, and 'tis a Conſideration deſerves to be repeated) Charged Papiſts, they were poor, forlorn, miſerable, and had nothing to live on, but what they begg'd of Proteſtants (who though they had the *Compaſſion* not to let them Starve, had no ſuch *lewd Principles* as to Bribe them to ſwear falſly againſt any; That they gave them *ſomething* to keep them *Alive* ſhews their *Charity*. That they gave them *no more*, is an Indeniable Argument of their *Innocency*) But no ſooner did they pretend a Proteſtant Plot, and Damn and Sink againſt *Shaftsbury*, *Wilmore*, &c. But they were New-Rigg'd, and had plenty of Money and Encouragement. 'Tis not unknown, that four of theſe Poſt-Knights, *viz. Owen Callaghan*, *John Arthur*, *Maurice Fitz-Gerrald*, and *Murtagh Downy* were kept for a conſiderable time at a certain place in St. *Gileſes*, and taken care for by one *M.* an Agent, or Solicitor for the Duke of *Norfolk* (a true Friend to the Catholick Cauſe, till falling out amongſt themſelves, one of them declaring he would not forſwear himſelf againſt my Lord *Shaftsbury*, Mr. *Hetherington* and others; that were Liſted in *Fitz-Gerralds* and *J. W*'s BlackBook, unleſs he had as much money as the reſt ('Twas not doing the Job they ſcrupled, but not having equal *Snacks*, divided them) The Cabal of Sham-Plotters, and Plot-ſhammers, were forced to meet to appeaſe the Difference. And for fear it ſhould take wind in Town, that good Friend Mr. *M.* moved, that he had a convenient place in the Country and a truſty Friend that would keep them in *Decorum*, and be as diligent in Inſtructing them, as *Caſtlemain* or *Dangerfield* (in days of Yore) were, in Tutoring the St. *Omers* Lads at *Gammar Cellierſes*. Whereupon, they were Tranſplanted for ſome time down into the *Fenns*, not far from *Lynn* about a place called *Downham*, where they *Conn'd* their Leſſon ſo faſt, and behav'd themſelves ſo Inſolently, that 'twas feared they would have ſworn Treaſon againſt moſt part of the Country (Papiſts only excepted) For they had not only aſſaulted a worthy Loyal Juſtice of the Peace, but were contriving *to make a Swear* (as they call it) againſt ſeveral others that would not Aſſociate with them, had not their Mannagers again thought fit to remove them up to Town with the reſt that were entertained in the *Subornation-Office*, That they might all the better Concur in their Tales, firſt to procure a Proteſtant-Plot in General, and then to proceed in particular againſt all thoſe both in City and Country that were in *F.--G.* and *J.--W*'s Fatal Liſts. Out of which, the Grand Sham-Plotter, *Fitz-G.* was pleaſed to ſhew a great many Names of Perſons that were to be charged with High-Treaſon by him and the reſt of his Confederates, to a certain honeſt Man of *Ireland*, by whom he ſent ſeveral *Broad-Pieces* (part of the price of his Soul) to his Wife, who was before in a Starving Condition.

2. There was some time since one Mr. *Harley* a Protestant that came over, and could make a very considerable Discovery of the Popish-Plot in *Ireland*, and brought with him Letters of Recommendation from a Noble Protestant Peer in that Kingdom, The Right Honourable the Lord Viscount *Shannon*, but *Fitz-G.* and the rest of that ungodly Tribe, meeting with him, and thinking he had no more Conscience than themselves, used all means to get him to make up one of their Number, intended for the *Sham-Plot-Office*, But he detesting their wicked Designs, they immediately procured a Fellow to Arrest him in a *Bobb-Action*, and clap him up in the *Marshalsea* in *Southwark*, where (contrary to a late *Statute*) he was thrust amongst the *Common Felons*; and there continued four or five days without Meat or Drink, (unless the *Pump* and kindness of his Companions who had scarce sustenance for themselves, supply'd him) and none of his Friends knew what was become of him, till a person by chance meeting with Mr. *Hetherington*, told him one of the Kings Evidence was in that desperate deplorable Condition, and that without speedy Relief, he would not live till the next day. Whereupon Mr, *Hetherington* taking pity on the poor Man though altogether unknown to him, was so Charitable as not to suffer a Stranger and a Christian to perish for want; especially coming on so good an Account as he did, to serve his King and Country, and the Protestant Religion: and so went immediately and paid his Fees and got him Released. But the poor Mans Spirits were so far spent, that he never Recovered, but having Languisht for some time, Dyed; And who at the great day of Account are to Answer for his Blood, is left to that Tremendous Assize where all wicked Contrivers and false Witnesses and corrupt Judges shall receive an Impartial Doom.

3. That these Sham-Office-Evidence are still in their Hearts Papists though they pretend to be Protestants; appears, for that several of them since they Listed themselves in *Fitz-Geralds* Troop have been with the Condemned Priests and Jesuites and Madam Damnable *Celiers* the Midwife, or chief Lady of the Popish Inchantments. And 'tis highly probable, That they gave them Absolution (as they did to the beforementioned *Arthur*, (commonly called *Club-Foot*) for swearing against Mr. *Hetherington*) And upon Condition to do some great Service for their Interest, as swearing a Protestant Plot against all such as they should direct, they may again be Reconciled to the Church of *Rome*.

4. These

4. These Witnesses cannot deny, but they have often said, Nay, some of them have given it under their hands, and declared upon Oath, That it was no sin to spill Protestants Blood, but a Meritorious Act, and that it is usual with the Popish Clergy to give Absolution as well before the Fact committed, as after, the better to effect their Designs. I do for the Truth thereof Appeal to some of the Papers of that Popish Traitor Bishop *Plunket* lately executed, which were delivered by Mr. *Hetherington* to the King and Council.

There is one thing more I may not omit, which is, That *David Fitz-Gerrald* (upon a hearing between him and Mr. *William Hetherington*, before the King and Council, did assert, *That he could procure forty Irishmen for forty pound, to Swear to whatever he desired them*, upon which it was Replied, *That he gave an honourable Character of his Countrymen.*

Several other Deductions and Notes might be made on the foregoing Depositions, But I would neither *weary* nor *fore-stall* the Reader; I conceived my self bound in Duty to my King and Country and the Protestant Religion, to make them publique, and some other Depositions there are likewise, not less material, but too long or in some Respects not fit yet to be Printed. I think these sufficient to give us an Insight into the Intrigue, for he's but an Ill *Woodman*, that cannot discover the Nature and Size of the *Beast*, by the View of his *Excrement*.

William Hetherington.

FINIS.